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from parents. The regulation of abnormalities in Hydra appears to be independent of external conditions, and seems to be rather an effect of certain qualities inherited by the organism. P.

**Notes.** — The third edition of Van Gehuchten's<sup>1</sup> well-known textbook on the nervous system of man has just been published. The work has been increased in bulk and now appears in two volumes of about six hundred pages each. The first volume contains a full account of the gross anatomy of the nervous system, the neurone, and the finer anatomy of the spinal cord; the second volume deals with the finer anatomy of the brain.

No. VII of Vol. III of the *American Journal of Physiology* contains the two following articles: "The Poisonous Character of a Pure NaCl Solution," by Jacques Loeb, and "Observations on the Degeneration and Regeneration of Motor and Sensory Nerve Endings in Voluntary Muscle," by G. C. Huber.

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#### BOTANY.

**Minnesota Plant Life.**<sup>2</sup> — The broad scope of the botanical work that is being done in Minnesota by Professor MacMillan is evidenced by the present volume. *Minnesota Plant Life* is the third volume of the botanical series of the reports of the natural history survey of the state. Notwithstanding, the book is not only not at all technical in the accepted sense, but, in accordance with the avowed purpose of the author, it is presented in as untechnical and popular a form as possible. Every botanist is quite too familiar with the result of the usual popular presentation of any portion of the subject. Popular treatises on biological science, especially, have come to stand for everything that is loose in thought, inexact in treatment, and antique in doctrine. Matters have practically reached a point where no master in scientific thought will write a popular treatise, and where no mere dilettante is able to write a scientific one. Professor MacMillan's book is proof that it is possible to write popularly,

<sup>1</sup> Van Gehuchten, A. Anatomie du système nerveux de l'homme, tomes i, ii. Louvain, 1900.

<sup>2</sup> MacMillan, Conway, Professor of Botany in the University of Minnesota. St. Paul, *The Pioneer Press*, 1899. 8vo, xxv, 568 pp. Four plates and 240 illustrations.